



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION
Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy Day

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island recognizes the importance of diagnosing and treating diabetes and promoting awareness and education about diabetes and its complications; and

WHEREAS, Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy is a serious condition that results from damage to nerves due to prolonged exposure to high amounts of glucose in the bloodstream as a result of diabetes and accounts for more diabetes related hospitalizations than any other complication; and

WHEREAS, in the United States 23.6 million people, or 7.8 percent of the total population, are affected by diabetes – including 63,500 adults in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, another 57 million (one in five Americans), including 167,000 people in Rhode Island, have pre-diabetes, a condition that puts them at greater risk for developing type 2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS, The American Diabetes Association estimates that about 60% to 70% of people with diabetes have mild to severe forms of nervous system damage due to Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy, which often causes intense pain, frequently described as, tingling, shooting, burning, “pins and needles” or sharp pain due to nerve damage; and

WHEREAS, sixty-four percent of Diabetic Nerve Pain sufferers reported that their pain interferes with the daily activities that matter to them, and 80% of Diabetic Nerve Pain patients reported problems with mobility; and

WHEREAS, Diabetic Nerve Pain may make it difficult to stay physically active and exercise, a critical component of diabetes management, which may contribute to worsening glycemic control and make sufferers more likely to develop additional health problems, including more nerve damage; and

WHEREAS, it is important that people with diabetes be aware of the dangers and warning signs of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy and make healthy lifestyle choices to potentially delay the onset and/or slow down the progression of this life changing condition; and

WHEREAS, public awareness efforts are necessary to inform people of the many dangers posed by diabetes, what steps to take to potentially delay the onset and/or slow the progression of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy, and that there are options to treat the pain associated with it; and

WHEREAS, people with diabetes, their families and friends along with health care professionals in this state urge increased awareness and understanding of Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy so that in the future people with diabetes will be better able to care for their own needs and others will be better prepared to serve the needs of people with diabetes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim May 17, 2011 as Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy Day and urge all Rhode Islanders to join me in recognizing the importance of this day.



A. Ralph Mollis
A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 13th day of May, 2011

Lincoln D. Chafee
Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor